



Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Threats Real & Unrealized

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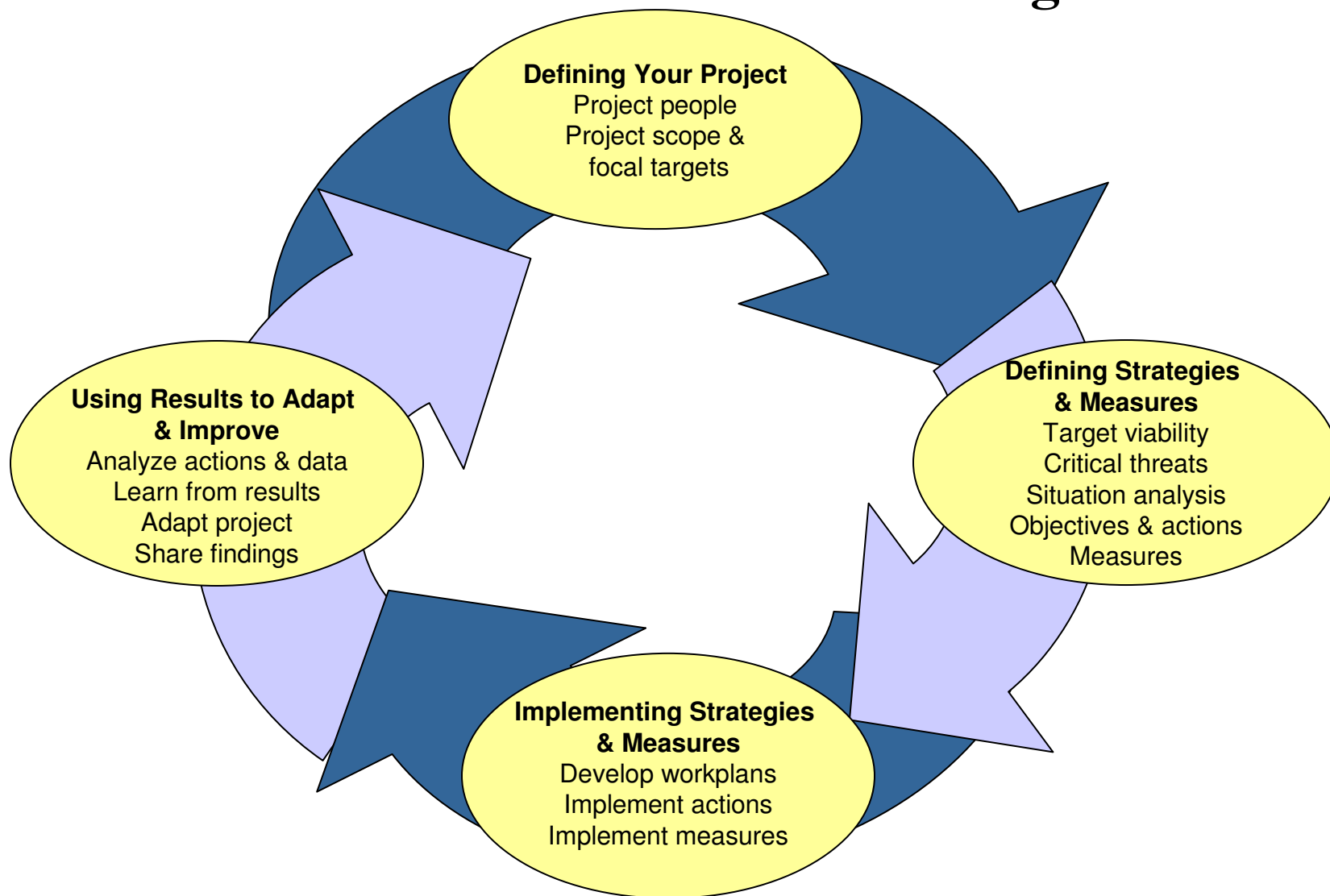


Great Salt Lake Alliance Members

Great Salt Lake Audubon
National Audubon Society
The Nature Conservancy
Utah Waterfowl Association
Friends of Great Salt Lake
Ducks Unlimited
Utah Rivers Council
Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve
Utah League of Women Voters
Western Resource Advocates
Utah Wetlands Foundation



Conservation Action Planning





TARGETS

STRESSES & SOURCES OF STRESS

Avian Ecological Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declining food sources (VH) 2. Habitat degradation and loss (VH) 3. Expansion of predators (H)
Plankton Ecosystem	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change in water chemistry (VH) 2. Change in water quantity (H)
Brine Fly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mortality from mosquito abatement chemicals (M) 2. Extreme high or low salinity balances (M) 3. Loss of habitat (M) 4. Predators (L)
Seasonally flooded Playas & Shoreline Mudflats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of upland and shoreline playas (VH) 2. Loss of inundation of playas at high lake stages due to barriers 3. Persistent higher-succession vegetation of playas 3. Habitat conversion to non-playa upland (H) 4. Disturbance and fragmentation of playas (H)
Freshwater Wetlands & Riparian Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fragmentation and isolation of wetlands (VH) 2. Channelization of riparian areas (VH) 3. Loss of freshwater sources (H) 4. Alteration of habitat (H) 5. Water contamination (H)
Upland Vegetation & Flood Plain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of upland habitat and available floodplain 2. Diminished condition of upland habitat



Overarching Threats to Great Salt Lake Ecosystem

1. No single definition of a healthy sustainable GSL ecosystem

- No meaningful long term plan with measurable goals.
- No system-wide entity with authority to manage toward a healthy GSL ecosystem.

2. Fragmented management style

- Conflicting mandates and limited authority among agencies.
- Managing to the “brink” of impairment.
- Cumulative impacts of actions not tracked.
- Lack of coordination among agencies, private & public sectors in achieving goals.
- Fragmented public trust responsibilities.

3. Fragmented research

- Lack of system level research focused on mgmt (e.g., no water budget for GSL).
- Lack of coordination among investigators.
- No central, accessible GSL data base.
- No coordinated funding.